(f) The Government is implementing a National AIDS Control programmes-Phase II with financial assistance from World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID), UK, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), USA and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), in the entire country with two key objectives namely (i) to reduce the spread of HIV infection in India; and (ii) to strengthen India's capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS on a long term basis.

The programmes has five components *viz.* (i) priority targeted interventions for population at high risk; (ii) preventive interventions for the general population; (iii) low cost care for people living with HIV/AIDS; (iv) Institutional strengthening; (v) Intersectoral collaboration. Under the component of Low Cost AIDS Care, the Government provides anti-AIDS drugs for treatment of opportunistic infections in public sector hospitals up to the district level, provides anti-retroviral drugs for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) and for post-exposure prophylaxis for medical and para-medical workers in case of accidental needle prick/ sharp injuries while treating HIV/AIDS patients. Government has waived excise duty on anti-retroviral drugs to make them affordable.

The National Sentinel Surveillance conducted by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) from 1998-2001 reveals that there is no upsurge in the spread of HIV infection in the country.

World Ayurvedic Congress

1838. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Ayurvedic Congress was held in India, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the topics discussed in the Congress;

(c) the documents/papers submitted by the researchers focussing on Ayurveda and Health Care;

(d) whether Government will examine all these documents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) World Ayurveda Congress was held at Kochi, Kerala during 1st to 4 November, 2002. The main theme of the Congress was "Ayurveda and the World Health" to showcase strengths of Ayurveda to the world. The topics discussed included globalisation of Ayurveda, conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants, standardisation of herbal drugs, highlights of Ayurveda etc.

(d) and (e) The recommendations of the Congress have not formally been forwarded to the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

Free treatment for accident patients

1839. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring a Bill to enable charitable and semi-charitable hospital in Delhi and other metros to treat accident patients free of cost;

(b) if so, the details of such ? Bill;

(c) whether Government are aware that such hospital refuse to treat accident patients unless they are sure that they would be paid for the treatment they render; and

(d) if so, the action Goverment would take against such hospital that refuse to treat accident patients who cannot afford the charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, regulation of Charitable